GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:99
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2015
Pollution in Metro Cities
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that of the world's 20 most polluted cities, 13 are in India including the capital city of Delhi;
(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the pollution level in metro cities of the country as compared to other polluted cities in the world;
(c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of high level of pollution on the health of the people;
(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
(e) whether the Government has issued instructions to the Pollution Control Boards in the country to take suitable action in the matter;
(f) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
(g) the concrete measures taken/ proposed to be taken to curb all kinds of pollution in the country, particularly in the most polluted cities including Delhi and Mumbai?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b). World Health Organisation (WHO) released Ambient Air Pollution Database-update 2014 considering only two pollutants, namely PM10 (particulate matter having size equal to or less than 10 micron) and PM2.5 (particulate matter having size equal to or less than 2.5 micron) for 1628 cities at global level whereas National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)-2009 notified by the Central Government comprise twelve pollutants including PM10 and PM2.5. WHO report describes 10 Indian cities including Delhi among top 20 most polluted cities in world while considering estimated data for fine dust (PM10) while it is 13 cities considering PM2.5 in select manner which is improper.

(c) to (f) Two epidemiological studies undertaken by CPCB in association with the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, are namely, 'Epidemiological Study on Effect of Air Pollution on Human Health (adults) in Delhi'; and 'Study on Ambient Air Quality, Respiratory Symptoms and Lung Function of Children in Delhi'. Another study was sponsored by the Ministry of Environment & Forests to Institute of Health Systems, Hyderabad namely, 'Environmental Health effect-cause of Death in Hyderabad'. There is no conclusive evidence that air pollution has led to loss of lives of patients suffering from respiratory diseases and has also adversely affected food grain production in the country. Air pollution may aggravate the situation but it not the only cause of respiratory diseases. Central Pollution Control Board has issued instruction to concerned State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committee for UTs in respect of 95 non-attainment cities for formulation of action plan to control air pollution.

(g) Various steps are taken by the Government to control air pollution in Delhi and Mumbai inter alia include, Clean India Mission, supply of cleaner fuel as per auto fuel policy, pollution under control (PUC) certificate system for in-use vehicles, gaseous fuel for public transport in Delhi and Mumbai, use of beneficiated coal (ash content not to exceed 34%) in coal based thermal power plants, strengthening metro as means of public transport, strengthening public transport, stringent source specific standards for industries, closure of Indraparastha coal based thermal power plant in Delhi, ban on burning of leaves, etc.